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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,879	05/30/2002	Jorunn Nilsen	09100.024	6277

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EXAMINER

MCDOWELL, SUZANNE E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/049,879	Applicant(s) NILSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Suzanne E. McDowell	Art Unit 1732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/17/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nowlin et al. (US Patent 5,539,076). Nowlin et al. discloses blow molding to form a bottle, container, fuel tank or drum, wherein the resin utilized is a bimodal HDPE comprised of homopolymers and copolymers of ethylene (column 2, lines 54-56) with a density of .89 to .97 g/cc (column 2, lines 60-61). Nowlin et al. further discloses that the lower molecular weight component has a molecular weight of from 0.1 to 20,000 (column 3, lines 42-46). Nowlin et al. thereby discloses the limitations of claims 1-3 and 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowlin et al. (US Patent 5,539,076). Nowlin et al. discloses blow molding to form a bottle, container, fuel tank or drum, wherein the resin utilized is a bimodal HDPE comprised of homopolymers and copolymers of ethylene (column 2, lines 54-56). Nowlin et al. further teaches the claimed molecular weights, density, molecular weight distribution and MFR as claimed in claim 4 (column 15, lines 15-20 and tables in columns 12 and 13). Nowlin et al. does not specifically teach the tensile modulus and comonomer content as claimed. Because Nowlin et al. does teach the remainder of the physical properties of the resin, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the tensile modulus and

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comonomer content could be optimized to result in the claimed physical properties as taught by Nowlin et al. Regarding claims 6, Nowlin et al. does not specifically teach that the container has a volume of at least 8L. Nowlin et al. does teach that the products formed may be fuel tanks or drums. It is generally well known in the art to form a drum with a volume of at least 8L. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the method taught by Nowlin et al. to form a generally well known size of drum, such as at least 8L, in order to make the desired finished product.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Barry et al. (US Patent 6,403,181); Menon et al. (US Patent 5,409,646); EP 0757076 A1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne E. McDowell whose telephone number is (571) 272-1205. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W, Th 6:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Colaianni can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SEM
September 30, 2004


SUZANNE E. MCDOWELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER